

***Summary of***  
***Nebraska***  
***Crime Commission***  
  
***Juvenile Justice Grant***  
***Programs***  
  
***2003-2004***



# JUVENILE SERVICES GRANT FUNDS

Juvenile Services Grant Funds are state funds appropriated by the Legislature and administered by the Nebraska Crime Commission. Availability of funds is announced on an annual basis and applications are accepted through a competitive grant process. The purpose of these funds, as outlined in state statute, is to assist communities in the implementation and operation of programs or services identified in their comprehensive juvenile services plan, including but not limited to: programs for assessment and evaluation, the prevention of delinquent behavior, diversion, detention, shelter care, intensive juvenile probation services, restitution, family support services, and community centers for the care and treatment of juveniles in need of services. The Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice in conjunction with the Crime Commission develops a Three Year Plan for all juvenile justice grant funds. Juvenile Services dollars are generally prioritized based on the needs identified in this Three Year Plan.

The Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice acts as an advisory board to the Crime Commission and gives recommendations for the allocation of Juvenile Services Grant funds. The amount of the appropriation has fluctuated slightly, and in 2004 there were \$587,812 available for award. Total requests for Juvenile Services funds were over \$1.5 million.

## **Seward County Bridges: \$20,349**

The Bridges organization utilizes these funds to further enhance after school programs available for youth in Seward County. Programming includes mentoring, tutoring, educational and pro-social activities.

*Contact: Terri Siebert, 216 South 9<sup>th</sup>, Seward, NE 68434, (402) 643-2608; tsiebert@unlnotes.unl.edu*

## **Sherman County: \$19,800**

Sherman County utilized these funds to support a Youth Coordinator in the county. This position oversees the juvenile diversion program as well as works with youth in the county to coordinate alternative activities for all ages.

*Contact: Sheila Eloe, P.O. Box 621, Loup City, NE 68853, (308) 745-1513 ext.110*

## **Lancaster County - Minority Outreach Diversion Project: \$19,008**

Lancaster County contracts with Cedars Youth Services to operate the Juvenile Diversion program in conjunction with the County Attorney's Office. This project, based on evaluation of the overall diversion program, focuses on intensive outreach to get minority youth involved in diversion.

*Contact: Petra Smith, 770 North Cotner, Suite 410 Lincoln, NE 68505(402) 437-8988; psmith@cedars-kids.org*

## **Blue Valley Community Action, Inc.: \$33,412**

Blue Valley works in conjunction with the County Attorney's office to operate the juvenile

diversion program in Jefferson County. They provide a comprehensive curriculum including restitution, life skills, speakers and panel presentations, and community service.  
*Contact: John Willey, 620 5<sup>th</sup> Street, P.O. Box 273, Fairbury, NE 68352, (402) 729-2278; [jwilley@bvca.net](mailto:jwilley@bvca.net)*

**Active Community Team of Saunders County: \$16,145**

This non-profit community team has implemented a mentoring program in most of the communities in Saunders County and will be transitioning and integrating the program with Teammates throughout this year.

*Contact: Pam Lausterer, 426 N Broadway, Wahoo, NE 68066, (402) 443-8169; [plausterer@alltel.net](mailto:plausterer@alltel.net)*

**City of Omaha- Omaha Fire Department: \$34,031**

Previously funded under Title V, the Omaha Fire Department will work in cooperation with the County Attorney's office to provide a specific diversion option for juvenile firesetters.

*Contact: Laura Weaver, 1516 Jackson St., Omaha, NE 68102 (402) 444-3849; [lweaver@ci.omaha.ne.us](mailto:lweaver@ci.omaha.ne.us)*

**YWCA of Adams County - The Zone: \$37,053**

The Zone is an after school program for middle school youth in Hastings, NE. The Zone provides recreational and educational opportunities to all youth who participate. The program has a creative partnership with local law enforcement as the program is housed in the law enforcement center.

*Contact: Lisa Marvel, 604 N. St. Joseph Ave., Hastings, NE 68901, (402) 462-8821; [ywca\\_adamsco@yahoo.com](mailto:ywca_adamsco@yahoo.com)*

**Lancaster County - Community Integration Team (CIT): \$30,690**

Lancaster County contracts with Cedars Youth Services to operate the CIT project. This project incorporates the wraparound concept and works with youth and their families in a holistic manner.

*Contact: Petra Smith, 770 North Cotner, Suite 410, Lincoln, NE 68505 (402) 437-8988; [psmith@cedars-kids.org](mailto:psmith@cedars-kids.org)*

**Lancaster County-YES: \$61,823**

The County contracts with Cedars Youth Services to operate the Youth Excelling in School Program. This is a truancy prevention program that coordinates with the schools, juvenile pre-trial diversion and the community.

*Contact: Petra Smith, 770 North Cotner., Suite 410, Lincoln, NE 68505 (402) 437-8988; [psmith@cedars-kids.org](mailto:psmith@cedars-kids.org)*

**Cuming County: \$30,690**

Funds will be used by Cuming County to develop a comprehensive accountability based juvenile diversion program for first time offenders.

*Contact: Daniel Bridges, 200 South Lincoln St. Room 51, West Point, NE 68788, 402-*

372-6010, [jdcoordinator@cableone.net](mailto:jdcoordinator@cableone.net)

**Otoe County: \$30,195**

The funds for this project are being used to develop various prevention activities throughout the county such as: Youth Leadership Council, Character and Resistance education, Strengthening Families curriculum and family mentoring.

Contact: Jackie Schmitz, 920 Central Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410 (402) 873-6343; [puffnc@alltel.net](mailto:puffnc@alltel.net)

**Lancaster County- Project SEEK: \$25,987**

Lancaster County will contract with Cedars Youth Services to work with children whose parents are incarcerated. Cedars identified the need to work with these children based on evaluations of their other youth programs. The project is designed to reduce risk factors for these youth through mentoring, family interventions, pro-social activities and reintegration of families.

Contact: Petra Smith, 770 North Cotner, Suite 410, Lincoln, NE 68505 (402) 437-8988; [psmith@cedars-kids.org](mailto:psmith@cedars-kids.org)

**Sidney Public Schools- Youth As Resources: \$40,095**

The school has developed the Youth As Resources program in Cheyenne County. This program connects youth with their communities through meaningful community services projects planned and completed by the youth. The project director also does mentoring in the classrooms in Sidney Middle School.

Contact: Brenda Haller, 2103 King St., Sidney, NE 69162 (308) 249-2395; [bhaller@panasu.org](mailto:bhaller@panasu.org)

**Camp Fire USA Midlands Council-Omaha: \$26,174**

This organization utilizes funds for Action Pact South, which works with at risk youth in South Omaha through mentoring, prevention, educational activities and parenting forums.

Contact: Megan Lassek, 3801 Harney St. Suite 120, Omaha, NE 68131 (402) 397-5809; [megan@campfireomaha.org](mailto:megan@campfireomaha.org)

**Cedars Youth Services- Central NE Wraparound: \$49,500**

Cedars provides wraparound services for youth and their families in Custer County and the surrounding area.

Contact: Suellen Koepke, P.O. Box 96, Broken Bow, NE 68822 (308) 872-5455; [sloan@cornhusker.net](mailto:sloan@cornhusker.net)

**Lutheran Family Services- Four County Mentoring: \$44,550**

Lutheran Family Services works with Richardson, Johnson, Nemaha and Pawnee Counties to provide mentoring programs for youth in each county. This was a need identified in the counties comprehensive juvenile services plan.

Contact: Sylvia Mickelson, 612 G St., Pawnee City, NE 68420 (402) 852-3141; [smickelson@lfsneb.org](mailto:smickelson@lfsneb.org)

**Ord School District: \$21,780**

The District contracts with Sandhills Center for Services to provide after-school programming for youth.

*Contact: Shelley Boyce, P.O. Box 113, Ord, NE 68862 (308) 728-7099; scs@citlink.net*

**Lutheran Family Services- Omaha: \$46,530**

The agency will use these funds to help expand their current community based program for sexually aggressive children. This is an outpatient program that works with youth who are offenders, victims and their families.

*Contact: Marti Wilson, 124 S. 24<sup>th</sup> St. Suite 100, Omaha, NE 68102 (402) 978-5621; mwilson@lfsneb.org*

## **JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION TITLE II FEDERAL FUNDS**

In 1974 Congress passes the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. The Act requires the deinstitutionalization of status offenders and non-offenders, sight and sound separation of juvenile and adult offenders in jail and correctional settings, removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups, and an assessment of disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system. These are known as the four core requirements of the Act. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is the federal office designated to oversee the grant funds related to the Act.

States must be in compliance with all four requirements in order to receive the full Title II grant allocation. Nebraska has gained full compliance and therefore receives the full amount available. Title II is a formula grant, thus the allocation is based on a formula using the states population, juvenile population, and various other factors. States must use these funds to gain compliance with the core requirements. Once compliance is attained, states can focus on other issues relating to juvenile justice such as substance abuse, mental health, gangs, rural issues, education, and other related topics.

The Act requires each state to have a State Advisory Group to facilitate a three year plan for juvenile justice grant funds and make recommendations on subsequent funding. The Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) is Nebraska's State Advisory Group and makes recommendations on funding to the Nebraska Crime Commission who gives final approval for all funding.

Title II funds are awarded on an annual basis through a competitive grant process. As with Juvenile Services funds, the requests for Title II funds far exceeded the amount available.

There were \$661,385 available for programs and \$1.1 million in requests for funding. The following programs were selected for funding:

**Sarpy County: \$34,250**

Sarpy County has constructed a new staff secure and juvenile assessment center. These funds will be used to support an assessment center director and development of assessment policies and procedures.

Contact: Richard Shea, 1303 West 6<sup>th</sup>, Papillion, NE 68046 (402) 537-7021;  
rshea@sarpy.com

**Nebraska Crime Commission - Compliance Monitoring: \$43,786**

These funds are utilized for the Compliance Monitor at the Crime Commission. This staff position monitors all jails, lockups, detention centers, and any other facilities that may be required, to ensure that juveniles are being held according to the JJDP Act.

Contact: Eli McBride, P.O. Box 94946, Lincoln, NE 68509-4946, (402) 471-3133;  
emcbride@crimecom.state.ne.us

**Merrick County: \$16,000**

The county uses the funds for their juvenile diversion program and has also developed a youth leadership program. The coordinator has developed their diversion curriculum, activities related to completing diversion, and holds youth accountable for completing their diversion requirements.

Contact: Mary Ingram, 1615 17<sup>th</sup> Ave, P.O. Box 147, Central City, NE 68826 (308) 946-3861; [ma.ingram@charter.net](mailto:ma.ingram@charter.net)

**Cedars Youth Services- Lincoln : \$48,750**

Cedars houses the Youth As Resources program which operates in Seward, Jefferson, Otoe, York and Saunders counties. Youth As Resources is a meaningful community service program that is designed to reconnect youth and their communities.

Contact: Vicki Thompson, 770 North Cotner, Suite 410, Lincoln, NE 68505 (402) 323-7522; [vthompson@cedars-kids.org](mailto:vthompson@cedars-kids.org)

**Cedars Youth Services - McCook: \$39,500**

This agency collaborates with the County Attorney to operate the juvenile diversion program. Funds will be used to further the program and the curriculum being offered to the youth.

Contact: Position currently vacant

**Family Services- Omaha: \$30,000**

Funds will be used to develop further tracker services for youth on probation. The goal is to hold youth accountable to their probation orders, but also to help the youth complete probation successfully.

Contact: Joanna Lindberg, 2101 S. 42 St., Omaha, NE 68105, (402) 552-7409;

[jlindberg@heartlandfamilyservice.org](mailto:jlindberg@heartlandfamilyservice.org)

**Douglas County- Juvenile Assessment Center: \$192,330**

Douglas County is implementing a Juvenile Assessment Center. This will allow for standardized screening of youth coming into the system, streamlined referral to diversion and the courts, more comprehensive information for the courts and act as a resource for referrals for youth and their families.

Contact: Kim Culp, 1941 South 42<sup>nd</sup> St., Suite 504, Omaha, NE 68105 (402) 444-5213;  
[kculp@co.douglas.ne.us](mailto:kculp@co.douglas.ne.us)

**Omaha Tribe of Nebraska: \$33,000**

The Tribe will utilize these funds to add a mental health professional in their newly re-opened staff secure youth shelter.

Contact: J. Bazemore, P.O. Box 309, Macy, NE 68039 (402) 837-4195  
[jbazemore@huntel.net](mailto:jbazemore@huntel.net)

**Nebraska Boys Ranch: \$85,000**

This program at the Boys Ranch will work to provide coordinated transition back into the community for youth in the panhandle who have been in out of home placement, particularly YRTC-Kearney. The program will work to transition youth back into school, home and community.

Contact: Daman Heitz, P.O. Box 639, Alliance, NE 69301 (308) 762-6370;  
[dheitz@nebraskaboysranch.com](mailto:dheitz@nebraskaboysranch.com)

**Buffalo County- Juvenile Diversion: \$41,000**

Buffalo County will work in conjunction with the County Attorney's office to develop a comprehensive juvenile diversion program.

Contact: Doug Kramer, P.O. Box 67, Kearney, NE 68848 (308) 233-3751;  
[dkramer@kearneygov.org](mailto:dkramer@kearneygov.org)

**Otoe County- Juvenile Diversion: \$36,000**

Otoe County will utilize funds to further develop a comprehensive juvenile diversion program for first time offenders.

Contact: Jacki Schmitz, 920 Central Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, (402) 873-6343;  
[puffnc@alltel.net](mailto:puffnc@alltel.net)

**University of Nebraska- Omaha/ Juvenile Justice Institute: \$61,769**

JJI will work with the Crime Commission and state Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) coordinator to further statewide DMC efforts. JJI will also work with the Crime Commission in developing evaluation strategies for sub-grantee's.

Contact: Hank Robinson, Dept. of Criminal Justice, 6001 Dodge St., Omaha, NE 68182-0149, (402) 554-3493; [trobinson@mail.unomaha.edu](mailto:trobinson@mail.unomaha.edu)  
State DMC coordinator: Anne Hobbs, 402-770-3282, [ahobbs@neb.rr.com](mailto:ahobbs@neb.rr.com)

## TITLE II, PART E, CHALLENGE GRANTS

The Challenge grant program is a supplement to the Title II Formula grant fund. The purpose of these funds is to develop, enhance and improve Juvenile Justice programs and policies within the specified Challenge Grant Activities established in the federal guidelines. The intent is to make systems change in the Challenge Activity areas. In the re-authorization of the JJDP Act in 2002, the Challenge Grant funds were combined with several other discretionary grant programs to form a new Delinquency Prevention Block Grant program, however, no funding was appropriated to the new fund in 2003/2004. Therefore, this will be the final year for Challenge grant funds. There are approximately \$87,500 available in this grant fund.

### **Lancaster County: \$19,300**

The County will use these funds to enhance the juvenile justice management information system within the Juvenile Assessment Center and Lancaster County.

*Contact: Kit Boesch, 555 S. 9<sup>th</sup>, Lincoln, NE 68508 (402) 441-6868;*

*[kboesch@co.lancaster.ne.us](mailto:kboesch@co.lancaster.ne.us)*

### **Lancaster County- HUB: \$82,549**

Funds will be used to develop a transitional services network for young adults about to age out of the juvenile justice system.

*Contact: Kit Boesch, 555 S. 9<sup>th</sup>, Lincoln, NE 68508 (402) 441-6868;*

*[kboesch@co.lancaster.ne.us](mailto:kboesch@co.lancaster.ne.us)*

## JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY INCENTIVE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG) Program began in 1998 with an appropriation from Congress. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention was charged with developing the guidelines for the program. The purpose of the program is to promote greater accountability in the juvenile justice system. The guidelines established twelve Program Purpose Areas by which states are supposed to be able to develop greater accountability. These purpose areas include construction of juvenile facilities, development of accountability based programs and sanctions, hiring of juvenile justice personnel, technology, and specialized courts.

The program has now been established in legislation with the Re-authorization of the JJDP Act in 2002. The new program guidelines and name (Juvenile Accountability Block Grant) will take effect October 1, 2003.

The JABG program is different than the other juvenile programs listed above. Based on a formula developed by OJJDP, cities and counties are given a pre-determined sum of



money. Twenty four cities and counties in Nebraska receive a sum of \$5,000 or more. This formula is based on juvenile population, law enforcement expenditures and a variety of other factors. In order to receive the pre-determined sum of money, the community must develop a three year plan, establish a Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition, and provide a 10% cash match. Cities and counties are allowed to work together and pool their funds to better utilize the money. The Crime Commission is the pass through agency and awards the pre-determined awards on an annual basis to those communities who wish to receive their pre-determined award and who meet the established criteria. There are many communities who receive less than \$5,000. OJJDP recognized that generally this is not enough money to meet the purpose of the program, therefore, the state retains those funds and is responsible for providing services in those areas that did not receive pre-determined awards. The total JABG award for 2003 was \$1,411,200.

Funds for this program are being severely cut at the federal level and the future of JABG funds is not certain.

The following communities met the criteria and accepted their pre-determined funds for this year:

**City of Omaha/Douglas County: \$450,936**

The City of Omaha and Douglas County agreed to merge their funds to maximize the use of the dollars. These dollars will go toward the maintenance of the JAIBG MIS system, juvenile drug court, and a variety of graduated sanction programs.

*Contact: Gail Braun, 1819 Farnam Street, Suite 300, Omaha, NE 68183 (402) 444-5286  
gbraun@ci.omaha.ne.us*

**Hall County: \$33,353**

Hall County and the City of Grand Island combine their funds and they are used for an intake probation officer that assists with the intake function as well as tracking youth on probation and diversion.

*Contact: Troy Chandler, 117 East 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Grand Island, NE 68801, (308) 385-5124  
troyc@hcgj.org*

**Sarpy County: \$43,704**

Sarpy County and the City of Bellevue pool their funds to operate the Juvenile Drug Court housed in Sarpy County.

*Contact: Dan Nedrow, 1210 Golden Gate Drive, Papillion, NE 68046 (402)593-2222  
dnedrow@sarpy.com*

**Scotts Bluff County: \$19,712**

Scotts Bluff County and the City of Scottsbluff will utilize funds to enhance their juvenile drug court.

*Contact: Crystal Newton, 1825 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Admin. Bldg., Gering, NE 69341 (308) 436-6655  
cnewton@scottsbluffcounty.org*

**Lincoln/Lancaster County: \$188,887**

The city and county are pooling their funds and concentrating on three main areas: management information systems, graduated sanctions and juvenile drug court.

*Contact: Kit Boesch, 555 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, (402) 441-6868  
kboesch@co.lancaster.ne.us*

**Madison County: \$18,084**

Madison County and the City of Norfolk pool their funds to support two part time juvenile accountability officers. These officers work with youth on probation and diversion to ensure they meet the conditions of their agreements.

*Contact: Joe Smith, P.O. Box 269, Madison, NE 68748 (402) 454-3311*

**City of Beatrice: \$6,279**

The City of Beatrice will work with the County Attorney=s office to enhance and expand their juvenile pre-trial diversion program.

*Contact: Bruce Lang, 201 N. 5<sup>th</sup>, Beatrice, NE 68310 (402) 223-4080*

**Buffalo County: \$21,751**

The funds will be used to develop a truancy intervention program. The County Attorney, schools and other stakeholders will collaborate to work on common definitions of truancy and interventions with truant youth and families. *Contact: Doug Kramer, P.O. Box 67, Kearney, NE 68848 (308) 233-3751 dkramer@kearneygov.org*

**Dakota County: \$5,373**

The county will utilize these funds to provide electronic monitoring and substance abuse classes for youth in the juvenile court system.

*Contact: Nicole Sims, P.O. Box 126, Dakota City, NE 68731 (402) 987-2122  
nsims@dakotacountyne.org*

**STATE RETAINED DOLLARS:**

**Nebraska Office of Juvenile Services: \$523,121**

These are the state retained funds that are to serve all areas without pre-determined awards. The Office of Juvenile Services is partnering with the state Probation Office to provide and expand direct care services not previously available to youth on probation or parole. The services that were implemented or expanded to serve both populations of youth include mediation, day/evening reporting, electronic monitoring, trackers, and drug testing.

*Contact: Todd Reckling, P.O. Box 95044, Lincoln, NE 68509-5044, (402) 471-8404  
todd.reckling@hhss.state.ne.us*